

Grace Church Visitor.

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

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No. 5.



REV. H. A. WELKER,
PASTOR AND SINGING EVANGELIST.

Sec. No. 3, will serve the next monthly supper, Thursday, April 7th. They will have roast beef, mashed potatoes, etc. Miss. Felker, Mrs. S. Dukeman and Mrs. Bitner have charge of this section.

The Woman's Aid Society will hold its next monthly meeting Thursday afternoon, April 7th.

Communion service, reception of members, and baptism of children, on Easter Sunday, April 3rd.

The Sabbath School, and families of the church have been supplied with special envelopes for the Easter offering. We hope these envelopes will come back with large gifts for the Lord's work.

Every member of the church will be expected at the services during Easter week. Services each evening beginning at 7:30. There will be a song service of fifteen minutes. Come and bring your friends.

By an act of the consistory the members of the church who have not yet had an opportunity of filling out subscription cards for this year's current expenses, have just recently been supplied with cards. The consistory asks that these cards may be filled out at once and returned to the consistory.

The Easter offering ought to amount to several hundred dollars. The Lord wants a liberal offering.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

The Christian is by virtue of his acceptance of Christ, and of his regeneration a child of God. The apostle John says, 1st. Epistle, 3: 1, 2, "Behold what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." "Beloved now are we the sons of God". Paul says, Gal. 3: 26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Romans, 8: 14, 17, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry Abba Father, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Many other scripture passages might be set forth in evidence of the fact that the Christian must be, and is a child of God. "A Christian is a man vitally and intimately connected with Christ. A Christian is a man who breathes the spirit of Christ, thinks his thoughts and lives his life. A Christian may be a theologian, an ecclesiastic, a moral man he must be, but above all he must be a Christian." He must be a partaker of Christ's divine nature. The Christian is a changed man, a regenerated man, made again in the image of God. Intellectual assent to the truth does not make a man a Christian. The doctrines of Christianity do not make a Christian; profession does not make a Christian; baptism and church membership do not make a man a Christian; morality does not make a Christian. The Christian will be a professor, a

church member, he will cheerfully submit to baptism, and he must be a moral man, but neither of these, nor all of these will make a man a Christian. Simple as the Bible is in its teaching as to what constitutes a Christian, men are all the time stumbling over the plain teaching of the word, missing the way, or purposely substituting their own beliefs for God's way of salvation. We are explicitly taught in God's word, that the Christian must be a regenerate man. "Ye must be born again," is the emphatic teaching of the Master.

The question may now be asked, What must a man do to become a Christian? A dying man said to us very recently, "I do not believe that men are unsaved so much because they are so by choice, but because they do not know the way." This man was of the opinion that it was a very difficult thing to become a Christian; possibly in his case this might have been true. He had all his life-time been living in alienation from God. Possibly he had hardened his heart, and darkened his mind, surely for such a man it would be difficult to find the way into the kingdom. But for the man whose inner light has not yet gone out, and whose understanding has not been darkened, it can not be a difficult thing to find the way. We have every assurance that even the little children are competent to find the way, "Way-faring men, though fools shall not err therein."

When Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Jesus said in reply, "I am the way; no man cometh to the Father but by me."



EASTER SERVICES

PASSION WEEK

The pastor and members of the Grace Reformed Church extend to you a very cordial invitation to worship with them during the evenings of Passion Week, March 28 to April 3rd. Special evangelistic services will be held each evening during the week at 7:30; also on the afternoons of Thursday and Friday at 2:30 o'clock. Rev.

H. A. Welker, of Bluffton, Ind., will assist in the meetings. Services will also be held during the week preceeding Passion week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Rev. B. Ruf will preach at the service on Thursday evening. Friday evening the service will be specially for children and parents. Come to these services and bring your friends.

Jesus practically answers the question here. What must a man do to become a Christian? Surrender your heart and life to him, and he will enter your soul, and he will make you a Christian. The apostle John says, John, 1: 12, "But as many as received him to them he gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in his name." On the day of pentecost when the three thousand inquirers said, (Acts. 2: 37, 38,) "Men and brethren what shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." To the Phillippian jailor Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house." Rev. 3: 20, is also in place, "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in, and will sup with him and he with me." Now what must a man do to become a Christian? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; accept him, open the door of your heart to him, let him come in,

and let him have possession of your life. Believe on him, but you must also receive him. Surrender to him, yield every thing, and you cannot miss the way. Give Christ the right of way in your life. Let him sit upon the throne of your heart. If the way is not clear, submit your difficulties to him, he will help you out of the hard places; he will make the way plain.

Does some one ask, "Should I be a Christian?" "Is it necessary?" "What profit will it be to me to become a Christian?" God sent his son into the world to make it possible for you to become a Christian. All men alike are lost. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. Sometime, somewhere every man is made conscious of his need of a savior. Have you never been convicted of your sins? Have you never been made conscious of your need of becoming a Christian? Yes surely, sometime, somewhere, the Lord has met you face to face, and spoken to you about the matter. He is a faithful shepherd and he seeks the lost sheep until he find it. Poor,

(Continued on page 5)

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

Subscription, 25 cents per year in advance.

Monday, March 14th, L. W. Hills and the pastor attended a special meeting of classis at Bluffton, Ind. While in the city they were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Welker.

L. W. Hills spent Sunday, March 13th., with Rev. H. A. Welker at Bluffton, Ind. He spoke for him at his appointments in the country Sabbath morning and afternoon, and in the evening he spoke in the Reformed Church in Bluffton.

Announcements of our passion week services have been made for some weeks past; and we hope we will not be disappointed in the attendance, or interest which our people will take in these meetings. We are first of all solicitous that our own people shall attend the meetings; second that they shall invite their friends to come with them, then pray earnestly for the success of the meetings. While we are assured of the valuable assistance of Mr. Welker during Easter week, the meetings will not be a success unless the members of the church will get to work, and make their influence felt.

GONE TO REST.

Phillip H. Heyman, after many years of suffering, died Friday morning Feb. 26. He was born in Germany, March 19, 1841, was aged 62 years, 11 months and 5 days. He was married to Miss Catherine Jetter in 1868. The family

came to Ft. Wayne in 1882, where they have resided ever since. Mr. Heyman was baptized in infancy and early in life made a public profession of faith, and was received into membership with the Reformed Church. When Grace Church was organized on Pentecost day, May 13, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Heyman were among the charter members, and have continued in the church to the present time. Mr. Heyman was an invalid for many years, but he was patient in all his suffering, and gave full evidence of his acceptance with the Lord. When the end came he was ready to depart to be forever with the Lord. He leaves to mourn his death, his wife, four sons and three daughters, five brothers and two sisters. The funeral services were held from the home on south Calhoun St., Monday afternoon, Feb. 2nd.

Mrs. Emery Shook, a cousin of Mrs. Zartman, who was brought from her home at Corunna, Ind. to the city some time ago for an operation, died at Hope Hospital, Wednesday afternoon, March 16. She was in great suffering day and night until at last the end came and the Lord took her home to himself. Her husband was at her bedside almost continuously, day and night until her sufferings were ended. It was sad, indeed, to witness her intense suffering, but sadder to witness the parting of two who had been so happy with each other in their married life. She passed away peacefully in the happy assurance that she was going to rest and peace forever. The remains were taken to

Corunna where they were laid away to rest, Sunday morning, March 20th. She was aged, 33 years, 2 months and 24 days.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN

(Continued from page 3)

erring lost soul, you need Christ; without him you have no hope of salvation. The Christian only can have a hope of heaven. Do you want this hope? Then you must be a Christian. Your soul will never find peace and rest until it will find peace and rest in Christ.

What will it profit you if you become a Christian? You shall have rest, you shall have peace, you shall be satisfied; you shall be a child of God. If a child, then an heir of God, and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. The Christian only is the happy man in this life, and he only has eternal life. To be sure, as the world looks at it, there are sacrifices and self denials to be made, and crosses to be borne, if a man will be a Christian. But the world looks at these things from a wrong standpoint. It sees things through a glass darkly. Get the Christ vision and every thing puts on a different phase. What is there in a life of sin, and worldly pleasure? What shall the harvest be at last? Disappointment, shame, sorrow, death. "The ways of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Do you ask when should I become a Christian? Do it now, today; tomorrow may never come. Delay is dangerous, God says, "now." Now is the accepted time, each day will find you farther away from Christ. Each day away from God makes it the more difficult to return and lessens your opportunities of becoming a child of God. Accept Christ now and have rest and peace, and possess the joy of salvation, and begin work for your Lord.

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TOPICS AND LEADERS.

APRIL.

3. Victories through Christ. 1 Cor. 15: 50-58. John Knight and Edith Hobson.

10. Two standards of Christ. Matt. 5: 43-48; 1 John 2: 15-17.

Irving Bitner and Fannie Shadel.

17. The transforming power of Christ. Rom. 12: 1, 2; Phil. 3: 21, 22.

Barney Hattel.

24. Christian education in missionary lands. Matt. 4: 13-17. Mr. Zartman.

The business meeting for April will be held at the home of Miss Anna Doermer, Tuesday evening, April fifth.

Misses Edith Hobson and Fannie Shadle were received into active membership with the C. E. Society Sunday evening, March 13.

Have you made an offering for the Easter decorations, if not the flower committee will be glad to receive one. Mr. Irving Bitner is chairman of this committee.

The young ladies of the Endeavor Society are preparing an entertainment which they expect to give the middle of April, possibly the nineteenth. We hope they will have a large attendance.

The missionary society will hold its next meeting at the home of Miss Anna Doermer, 1222 Taylor Street, Thursday afternoon, April twenty-first. The ladies of this society are making a comforter to send to the hospital connected with our mission work in China.

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday in the Junior contest. The pinks are ahead. These children have worked nobly to increase the attendance at their meetings. Sunday afternoon

March, 20, there were forty-five present.

The choir will have some special music for the services on Easter.

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